

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUSSEL 00297 161352Z
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UNCLAS DUSSELDORF 297

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT PL IS GW
SUBJ: MAJDANEK TRIAL RESUMED

REF: DUSSELDORF 205

1. THE MAJDANEK CONCENTRATION CAMP TRIAL WAS RESUMED
ON FEBRUARY 15, 1978 AFTER THE RECUPERATION AND RELEASE
FROM THE HOSPITAL OF DEFENDANT HILDEGARD LAECHERT
(SEE REFTEL).

2. PARTICIPANTS AT THIS 234TH DAY OF THE TRIAL INCLUDED
THE EAST BERLIN LAWYER, PROFESSOR FRIEDRICH KARL KAUL,
WHO REPRESENTED THE INTERESTS OF A SOUTHERN GERMAN
JOURNALIST, WHOSE FATHER WAS REPORTEDLY SHOT IN THE
MAJDANEK CONCENTRATION CAMP. KAUL'S APPEARANCE AROUSED
THE CURIOSITY OF THE MEDIA AND THE PUBLIC, WHO
HERETOFORE HAD HARDLY TAKEN ANY PARTICULAR INTEREST IN
THE TRIAL.

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PAGE 02 DUSSEL 00297 161352Z

3. AN ISRAELI WITNESS, MRS. REGINA AWRONSKA OF
HAIFA, WAS ALSO HEARD. THE WITNESS WAS THE ONLY
SURVIVOR OF HER FAMILY AFTER THE RISING OF THE
WARSAW GHETTO. SHE WAS ABLE TO REMEMBER A FEW NAMES
OF THE GUARDS BUT WAS NOT ABLE TO RECALL ALL NAMES
AFTER SO MANY YEARS. IN PARTICULAR SHE IDENTIFIED
MRS. HERMINE RYAN-BRANDENBERG.

4. THE TRIAL IS EXPECTED TO LAST ANOTHER TWO YEARS,
BARRING ANY FURTHER INCIDENTS. ISRAELI JOURNALISTS
DECLARED THAT IN ISRAEL THERE WAS NO UNDERSTANDING
FOR THE LONG-WINDED TRIAL AND FOR THE FACT THAT IT
TOOK THIRTY YEARS TO BRING THE DEFENDANTS INTO COURT.DUX

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